WENDELL POST

Winter

'96-'97

WINTER ON WENDELL COMMON
CIRCA 1910

Winter On Wendell Common, circa 1910

50¢ (Cheap)

Vol. 20 #4

Diemand is named Citizen of Year

By RICHIE DAVIS
Recorder Staff

WENDELL — Albert Diemand is one good egg. Just ask anyone who nominated him for The Recorder's Citizen of the Year for 1996.

Diemand, 88, is set to accept the 14th annual award at a Franklin County Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting today. The Mormon Hollow Road resident has donated his $500 prize to Camp Howe in Goshen, of which he has been an active supporter and board member.

"A ton of dynamite just exploded under me," Diemand said of his reaction to the prize. After several days, he said, "I'm still in shock. I really am."

The award is presented each year to a Franklin County man or woman "who has contributed to his or her community in an altruistic and exemplary way."

The Connecticut native, who founded Diemand Egg Farm after moving here in 1940, retired from the business 21 years ago but still routinely helps out. His decision to move from Connecticut, where he had worked for a plumbing contractor, to Wendell and begin farming, he said, "was the best thing that ever happened to me."

His years of work for various causes — Camp Howe, Franklin County Technical School, Franklin Area Survival Center, St. John's Church, in Millers Falls, the Catholic Diocese of Springfield, and others — result from his effort to have a positive impact in his community, he said.

"I hope I've been able to do something in my life," said Diemand, who was nominated by 35 people for the annual award. "That's what we're here for."

Diemand started his egg, chicken and dairy farm at a time when there were many chicken

See CITIZEN Page 14

Recorder/Paul Franz

Al Diemand

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WENDELL POST
POT LUCK SUPPER
MEETING
JAN. 22 at 6:30 PM
LINDA &JOE COLL'S
call Annie at 544-6111
or Joe at 544-8604

"Yankee" Article Shows Homestead

Try selling a house that becomes an island in winter, surrounded by a sea of snow—a house that is almost an island the rest of the year, too, served grudgingly b a 2-mile state forest road maintained by shovel and grub-hoe—and you'll know we face a challenge. Enough of a challenge, I guess, that Yankee Magazine took pity on us about the sale of our homestead and stone house and sent a reporter to talk to us. The article appears in the November Yankee. There Susan and I are, holding hands with a cartoon mouse (the "Country Mouse"). It's a nice article.

As a result, we have received a phone call from a man, Norm Cary, who now lives in the deep South but has local ties, from an old schoolmate of my brother's now in Missouri, and from a young couple tired of the mud in the Skokomish Valley in Washington State. We've heard from someone who wants to reproduce the conditions she grew up in in Alaska and from mothers curious about the Wendell school situation (one who drives her child an hour to Montessori). There's a couple with children who want to hear coyotes at night, and there was an 88-year-old man from Athol who drove his Jeep out here with an 82-year-old woman to satisfy their curiosity. He referred to her as "my wife" and she called him "just a friend", and they took the full tour, up ladders to lofts and down into the root cellar. The cellar is a sort of conversation pit in which people frequently hearken back to the old days, as this couple did.

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CUSTOMERS RALLY TO SUPPORT THE WENDELL COUNTRY STORE

Following a series of break-ins and thefts the owners of the Wendell Country Store were considering throwing in the towel and either selling or closing the store. The last two break-ins netted the thieves over a thousand dollars worth of merchandise each time. A nagging problem with shoplifting continues. Owners Patti and Vic Scutari and concerned customers decided enough was enough, and called a meeting of W.C.S. supporters on November 4th to discuss the future of the store.

Sara Schley and Joseph Laur facilitated the first meeting held at the Wendell Senior Citizen's Center. Schley and Laur encouraged those in attendance to visualize a Wendell without a country store. After a few moments they asked people to envision the store as to it's best possible configuration for the future. The next idea sought was, "What would customers in Wendell and surrounding communities want to see at the W.C.S.?".

Maintaining a healthy profit margin in a small community has proven to be a challenge. Owners and supporters acknowledged that the best prospect for maintaining a country store in Wendell would be to attract steady local customers. Patti Scutari explained that sometimes the volume of sales at the store comes back to haunt them in a "Catch-22" situation. If certain products don't turn over at a high enough rate, distributors feel less inclined to bother delivering those items to a remote location like Wendell.

The store has not sold gasoline since last February. The Scutari's supplier found that deliveries to the store didn't create enough profit to cover the cost of deliveries. One major oil company told the Scutaris that if their company owned stores didn't sell over thirty-five thousand gallons of gasoline per month then they would close them for being unviable. The last full year the Scutaris sold gasoline they sold sixty-six thousand gallons all year. The effect this has on customers is that if people can't count on buying certain products at the store then they take their shopping elsewhere.

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PARKING BAN

The Winter Parking Ban is in effect for the Town of Wendell. There is no on-street parking allowed between the hours of 12:00 am and 6:00 am. All vehicle wheels must be at least 4' from the road and intersections must be kept clear.
Any vehicle in violation will be towed at owner's expense.

WENDELL POST

CONTACT STAFF

Kathy Becker 544-5557
Gloria Kegeles 544-0922

STAFF

Kathy Becker, Gloria Kegeles, Stephen Broll, Nina Keller, Anne Diemand, Dona O'Dou, Tessa Diemand, Ina Phelps, Francis Doughty, Roni Stowell, Laura Doughty, Shirley White, Christine Heard, Josh Heinemann, Ina LeVangie, Kathy Swaim, Joe Coll, Margo Culley, Linda Hickman, Beth McConnell

CONTRIBUTORS

Ed Chase, Anna Hartjens, Marion Herrick, Rosie Heidkamp, Bob Leet, Everett Ricketts, Elizabeth Scully, Matt Stamell, Judy Wilder, Bill Lafley, Molly Kaynor, Charles Smith, Wendell Country Store, Wendell Senior Center

Advertising:Gloria Kegeles 544-0922
Delivery: Nina Keller, Kathy Becker and Anne Diemand
Photographers: Gloria Kegeles and Linda Hickman
Treasurer: Ina Phelps
Printer: Highland Press

POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

Please send submissions to Wendell Post, PO Box 113, Wendell, MA 01379.

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: 3 3/4" wide, 10 point font size, standard font. Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.

ADS $7.50 business card!

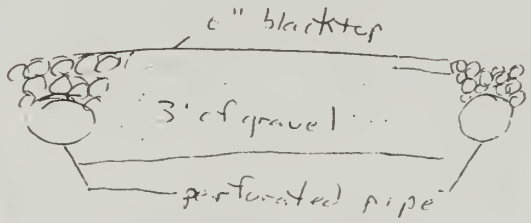
Road Work in 1996

Road damage from heavy rain, especially the June storm, cost Wendell an extra $80,000 in road repairs. The following is a list of the extra repairs done by the Wendell road crew this year, as I understood them given to me by Dan Bacigalupo.

Locks village road blacktop and patch
Davis road patch and blacktop
Farley road
Jennison road fill and grade
Stage road refill and grade
Wickett pond road fill and grade
Cooleyville road: fill and grade
Mormon Hollow road

In addition, Warner Bros. of Sunderland, not Hollywood, established proper drainage, and repaved the Morse village road hill in an attempt to eliminate the annual breakup of its pavement. This is not news to people who had to use the detour during the construction which started several days later than scheduled in early November, and ended several days later than scheduled in early December. Reopening of the road was a relief to users of the detour because the detour on Plain road and the dirt part of New Salem road suffered greatly from increased traffic.

The finished road is 6 inches of blacktop over 3 feet of gravel; a perforated drainage pipe runs along each side with several catch basins along the length of each pipe for cleanout. The pipes are covered with large stones that allow percolation of surface water into the pipes, and at the bottom of the hill the south pipe crosses under the road joining the north pipe, and the water is directed to a stone field on the north side of the road.



mole's eye view up the center of the road

The work was paid for with a grant that also paid for three dry hydrants for the fire department. They allow the fire dept. to get water from Bowen's pond, Still water, or Stone's pond without having to break through winter ice.

Josh Heinemann

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cont'd from page one

Since we live without electricity, with a hand pump at the sink and a masonry cookstove for heat and cooking, our lifestyle strikes a chord that sometimes awakens the race-memory in people, I think, but this old lady had grown up in northern Quebec and she spoke of homesteading from personal experience. She later sent us a fabric bag, printed with a lottery motif, for holding our recyclable plastic bags. It will be very useful.

One of the letters we received was about Wendell, from a man who'd lived here for a season in 1933, and it contains a bit of Wendell history. Here it is:

Jonathan von Ranson

Nov. 1, '96

Dear Jonathan—

After reading the fascinating article in the Nov. Yankee about your stone house, I just had to write to you.

The reason it was so interesting is this— I am 81 years old and in 1933 I was a member of the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) started by President Franklin Roosevelt. Its main purpose was enhancing our forests.

I and about 50 others of my age (18) were stationed in the Wendell State Forest and our barracks were situated about 100 yards from Wicket Pond. The pond has a small concrete dam that we built and the water went over the dam and formed a brook which ran northward down hill behind our barracks (living quarters) and down to the Miller's River at or near Miller's Falls, which as a town of about 12 houses at that time. I believe it also had an A&P store too.

Our job was building roads thru the Forest which were Fire-Lanes to be used in Forest Fire fighting. They were simply dirt roads. One crew also planted young Pine trees.

Once in a while our trucks would take us to Greenfield to a Theatre which was a welcome experience. I have been in the Town of Wendell Depot a few times but there was very little to see then except railroad tracks in 1933.

I have thought of the CCC Camp many times and wonder if it is now just a grown-up woodlot.

To reach our camp from Miller's Falls, we used to climb a dirt road called Dry Hill Road and then turn left at the top of the hill on Wicket Pond Road (I'm not sure of the name of this road). All dirt roads!

As I said, I think of that area many times and wonder if the area has been developed. I spent many happy hours there.

For recreation, we were allowed to use Government Issue Skis and would ski for recreation. In fact the only picture I have saved is me on Skis beside Wicket Pond. Thank you for listening to my memory's and God Bless.

Al Lescard
39 Maplewood Ave.
Tyngsboro, MA 01879

See Map (near Nashua, NH)
P.S. I am now a retired Steam Engineer.

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cont'd from page one

Those attending the meeting agreed that a resurgence in sales at the store would depend on a growing base of regular customers who could be counted on to buy certain products on a regular basis. Local farmers at the meeting noted they could more easily buy grain orders at the store rather then drive to Amherst or Bernardston if the prices could be competitive. Following that meeting the Scutaris began to stock Blue Seal Feeds. Their volume of sales increased so dramatically that their supplier, Amherst Farmers Supply, decided to drop the delivery charge to the store. Blue Seal even chipped in by giving the store a large "Blue Seal Feeds" sign to display

Before the meeting broke up supporters decided to form committees to investigate different ways to help the country store remain a viable part of the community. One particular principle everyone wanted addressed is that the robberies at the country store are reprehensible to every citizen of Wendell. The monetary losses sustained by these thefts have been difficult to recoup. The Scutaris, encouraged by the support of the community, have dug in their heels and are struggling to fine tune their business to meet their customer's needs. One committee has decided to form a "Friends of Wendell", their purpose to help anyone in town in times of disastor or unusual loss. They will be holding their first benefit February 1,1997 at the Wendell Town Hall between 1 and 5 P.M. with area acts and entertainers. It is billed as a family entertainment event. The first recipients of the benefit will be the Wendell Country Store.

Currently the store is soliciting customers views and wants through a survey that is available at the store's checkout counter.

For more information, contact Mez Ziemba, 544-7561.

Joseph Coll

WENDELL OLD HOME DAY

Wendell Old Home Day will be on July 12, 1997. This is the second Saturday in July. There was talk last year of having OHD on a different day but the folks who have come forward and spoken with us prefer to keep it on this day.

Our first meeting will be on Feb. 6. 7 pm at Karen Copeland's home on New Salem Rd. Come if you can for this meeting or if you have ideas, comments, energy or anything to share, please call Karen at 544-7352, Anne at 544-6111, Kim at 544-2913 or Kathy at 544-5557.

It has been an amazing process to make this day happen - come hell or high water- so join us if you can. This is the town's day we make it what we chose to.

Anne Diemand

Diemand's Farm
Wendell, Ma.
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fresh brown eggs
Fresh Thanksgiven turkeys
*fresh roasting chickens
maple syrup
as well as
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A family business since 1956
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cont'd from page one

Diemand accepts Citizen award, but turns spotlight on other people

By RICHIE DAVIS
Recorder Staff

DEERFIELD — Farmer Albert Diemand had his moment in the sun Friday, and used his recognition as The Recorder's Citizen of the Year to acknowledge people who have helped him help others.

Speaking before 375 people assembled for a Franklin County Chamber of Commerce breakfast at Deerfield Academy, the 88-year-old recipient of the 14th annual award turned his acceptance of the award into a pitch for the main source of his civic attention, Camp Howe in Goshen.

"This is your camp. This is a community project," said Diemand, a former president of the four-county 4H camp's board, who donated his $500 award to the camp.

Diemand's comments followed a presentation of the award by Recorder Publisher Kay Berenson and citations from Congress and the state Legislature by Rep. John W. Olver, D-Mass., and Rep. Stephen Kulik, D-Worthington.

"Boy, am I glad it's my turn, because I don't know how much longer I could have stood up here," said Diemand.

Diemand, whose list of civic accomplishments over the 56 years he's been a Franklin County resident also includes work for the Franklin County Technical School, the Town of Wendell, Swift River Elementary School, Franklin Area Survival Center, Franklin County Democrats, Eastern States Exposition, St. John's Church in Millers Falls, the Catholic Diocese of Springfield, and others — spent more than 10 minutes honoring various people who have helped him in fund-raising and building projects at the camp.

Diemand has worked particularly hard to develop a Camp Echo program for handicapped children within the Goshen facility. There, he said, campers with and without disabilities can spend time together sharing in the same activities, building their self-confidence and self-esteem.

"That's a powerful example for any child to see," said Diemand.

In 1987 he received a Massachusetts 4H Salute to Excellence.

In introducing Diemand as "an outstanding human being," Berenson said, "We all know how vital volunteers are to our towns." In raising 12 children and operating Diemand Farm, which he founded, "It would have been easy for Al to say he was too busy. ... (In retirement) he could have said he was tired." She quoted Diemand as saying, "Somebody had to do it, so I got up and did it."

Among those attending the breakfast were several members of Diemand's family, including his wife, Elsie.

"She's been Number 1 for 56 years," he said as he introduced her.

Friday's program also included a musical performance by pianist Julia Bady and flutists Sylvia Pippen of Buckland and Elise Washer of Greenfield.

farms in Franklin County, but decided to concentrate on poultry and expand beyond the flocks of 200 to 300 chickens that were prevalent at other area farms.

At its peak, the farm had 38,000 chickens, primarily for New York's kosher meat market. When that market declined, the emphasis turned to eggs, as well as roasting chickens and turkeys. Today, with three of the family's 12 children running the business, Diemand Farm has 15,000 to 16,000 chickens and sells eggs from Shelburne Falls to Athol and as far as Northampton, he said. This year, it sold 1,900 turkeys on the wholesale and retail markets.

Nowadays, he said, "I'm like the go-fer. Today Charlene Manor was short of eggs, so I brought some there. And Herm's was out, so I delivered some there. I couldn't sit back and not help."

Friends say that's always been the bottom line for Diemand, who through the years has done everything from teaching Sunday school and running the religious program to serving as a eucharistic minister at St. John's. He's also been involved in the county Democratic association, has served on the Franklin County Technical School Committee, and has helped in the creation of Swift River Regional School as well.

Through the years, Diemand has collected cans as a fund-raising activity for Camp Howe, where the dining hall is named for him and where last year he helped install the roof of a new handicapped-accessible bathroom building.

"I've never seen such a big heart," said longtime friend James Donelan of Orange. "He's put on more chicken barbecues for more people than you can shake a stick at, and that's a lot of work. If you need something, go to him and you never get a no."

Donelan said, "He's worked all kinds of hours but always found time to help people."

Donelan said that Diemand, who attends Mass every day, "has a very deep, spiritual love for almighty God." That, he added, is what makes him tick.

When Camp Howe was having difficulties, said Everett Hatch of Greenfield, "Al very tenaciously took the bull by the horns, raising money and overseeing construction (of facilities there). "When he goes for a cause, he puts everything into it."

Not only has Diemand routinely run the chicken barbecue at Wendell's Old Home Day celebrations, said Selectboard Member Theodore Lewis, but he's even delivered barbecued chicken to senior citizens in town who couldn't attend.

Through the years, Lewis said, Diemand and his wife have also delivered chickens, eggs and even turkeys to families who've needed help, and they've also taken in needy people as house guests.

"He's just always thinking of others," said former Wendell Selectboard member Anne Zak. "It extends way beyond his family."

Zak said Diemand has been a familiar figure at the Franklin County Fair, staffing the chicken barbecue he's conducted as a fund-raiser for the Franklin County Democrats, and he's a regular participant at the Eastern States Exposition, where he's made Finnish pancakes at the Massachusetts pavilion.

He's also attended nearly every annual town meeting Zak can remember over the past 25 years.

"He speaks up eloquently. He's attentive and open minded," Zak said. "He's also always good for a nice hug — a warm, affectionate person. He's willing to embrace you in all sorts of ways." An avid golfer, Diemand drives to Mississippi with his wife to spend winters there.

But he said that his family, and his Wendell farm, have always been central parts of his life — probably stemming from his father's Swiss-born family, who set up farms around New England.

"It's been the heart of our lives," he said, although he recalled difficult years of trying to make a living for his large family on the farm.

For that, he expressed appreciation to "a guy who helped me whose name begins with a 'G' " — as well as to a lot of people on earth.

"People are just wonderful," said Diemand. "People are inherently good."

Off the Record

Does "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree" apply also to a poultry farmer? Certainly, in the case of Al Diemand.

The 88-year-old Wendell farmer may have been named The Recorder's Citizen of the Year on Friday, but his daughter, Annie, is Citizen of the Year in Wendell. She "relentlessly" helped raise money for the town hall well, said Selectboard member Anne Zak. Then she went to work on fund-raising for a new playground on the town common. Also — but not finally — the Mormon Hollow Road woman, a volunteer police officer and former firefighter, also coordinates the clean-up effort for Wendell's Earth Day celebration.

"Between Al and Anne, they really set an example," said Zak. In a town thick with volunteerism, she kidded, "they make other volunteers feel guilty." DEC. 96

These 3 articles originally appeared in the Greenfield Recorder.

IT IS BETTER TO LOOK AHEAD AND PREPARE, THAN LOOK BACK AND REGRET.

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Land Transfers

8/23/96
New Ocala Trust 128, Albert J. Strehle Jr. as trustee, to Peter Humphry and Ann B. Humphry of Sarasota, Fla., Jennison Road, $12,500.

9/6/96
Jan Marek Natkanski by Joseph Breden of Riverview, Fla., to Joseph Breden of Florida, off Jennison Road, $25,000.
Elizabeth E. Thompson by attorney and Marilyn T. Russell of St. Louis, MO, attorney and individually to Christopher J. Marano and Laura S. Maples, 109 West St., $103,000.

9/13/96
Timothy P. Fortune and Marcia A. Fortune of Union, Maine, to Courtenay Dorsey of Colrain, 121 Montague Road, $99,500.

9/20/96
David Wertman and Lynne M. Wertman of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., to Michael J. Flanagan Jr. of Amherst, 55 Plain Road, $95,500.

9/27/96
Emma M. Cappelluzzo to Joshua Stebbins, Locks Hill Road, Lot 2, $10,000.

10/11/96
Paul E. White of Portland, Ore., to Erik C. Wight and Alison E. Wight, 8 Center St., $1.

10/25/96
Nancy Marsello of Worcester to Etienne J. LeGuern Jr. of Shrewsbury, Bear Mountain, less than $100.

Roger N. Hanson of Arlington, VT, to Etienne J. LeGuern Jr. of Shrewsbury, Bear Mountain, Carter lot, less than $100.

11/1/96
Arthur D. Johnson and Maureen L. Johnson to Christal L. Cutler & Shawn D. Conway of Montague, 10 Wren Gould Road, $67,000.
Anne G. Zak to Sally Ann Colbert, Lock Hill Road, $30,000.

11/8/96
Karen E. Charbonneau of Holyoke and David W. Charbonneau to David W. Charbonneau, Locks Village Road. No consideration.
Joseph A. Diemand to Joseph A. Diemand and Richard H. Diemand, Locks Village Road, $1.

11/15/96
Frederick R. Bardsley Jr. and Ethel M. Bardsley to David A. Arsenault and Martha J. Arsenault of Phillipston, Wendell Depot Road, $110,000.

Frederick R. Bardsley Jr. and Ethel M. Bardsley to David A. Arsenault and Martha J. Arsenault of Phillipston, Wendell Depot Road, three parcels, $1.

Lewis H. Starkey Jr. of Shutesbury to Lewis H. Starkey III, 179 West St. No consideration.

Irene Pasquale of Mansfield to Robert T. Marsh Sr. and Anna-Jean Marsh, 6 Morse Village Road, $2,000.

11/22/96
Timothy C. Ingersoll and Tamara L. Ingersoll of Perrysburg, N.Y., to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 23-25 West St., $105,000.

Michael E. John of Greenfield to Wayne D. Leonard and Kathleen J. Leonard of Greenfield, Locks Village Road, $12,000.

11/29/96
Commonwealth of Mass., DCP, to Marion B. Herrick, Wickett Pond Road, Parcel A, exchange of property.

Marion H. Herrick to Commonwealth of Mass., Division of DEM, Wickett Pond Road, Parcel 1, exchange of property.

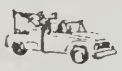
Ann Marie (Payne) Meltzer to Ann Marie Meltzer, 9 Morse Village Road, $1.

12/13/96
Helen D. Wirth of Pleasantville, NY, to Lorraine L. Seymour of Athol, West Road, $22,600.

Fire Log

#1-	9/5/96	Medical Call	19 Wren Gould Rd.
#2-	9/10/96	Mutual Aid	Shutesbury
#3-	9/15/96	Illegal Burn	Lockes Village Rd.
#4-	9/15/96	Medical Call	Lake Grove School
#5-	9/28/96	Med Call Illegal Burn	Lockes Village Rd.
#1	10/12/96	Med Call	78 Mormon Hollow Rd
#1-	11/7/96	Med Call	Lake Grove School
#2	11/9/96	Med Call Accident	Camp Anderson Area
#3-	11/15/96	Med Call Accident	Farley Rd
#4-	11/16/96	Med Call	Lake Grove School
#1	12/1/96	Gas Investigation	Lockes Village Rd
#2	12/6/96	Med Call	Farley Rd
#3	12/7/96	Power Line Fire (2)	Wicket Pond Rd.
#4	12/8/96	Power line Fire	Wendell Depot Rd

508-544-7601



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STATE FOREST MEETING

There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 5th at 7 pm at the Fisher Hill School in Orange

This meeting will be to discuss the draft management plan for nine State Forest & Parks including Wendell, Erving and Warwick. This meeting will be to discuss how to improve the plan that has been sent out to the local Town Offices and the State Forest & Parks headquarters

I spoke with the Wendell Select board and Chairperson Zak had read through the information and said there were some very interesting proposals for the Town of Wendell Two things were the digging out of Ruggles Pond and fixing up the CC roads

This sounds like a chance for us to let people in charge know what we want and perhaps have some improvements to our recreational areas. Try and join us for this meeting

If more information is wanted, please speak with your town's Select board, your local State Park Rangers or call Andy Backman at 1-617-727-3160 ext 569

Anne Diemand

Wendell Weather

"The wonderful purity of nature at this season is a most pleasing fact. Every decayed stump and moss-grown stone and rail, and the dead leaves of autumn, are concealed by a clean napkin of snow."

Thoreau

The two snowstorms this past weekend dumped 24" of snow and certainly covered Wendell. My average snowfall for December is around 12" so we doubled that in one weekend!

	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Avg H Temp	71	60	42
Avg L Temp	52	39	27
Mean	61.7	49.0	34.4
Avg Mean(88-95)	58.8	48.3	39.87
Rain	6.01	4.3	5.75
Snow	0	0	1.0

This wet year continues with a wetter than average September and Nov. So far this year I have recorded 37.4" of rain and 125" of snow.

September and October temperatures were pretty close to average but November was over 5 degrees cooler than my normal. My first frost was on October 4th which was the latest date I have recorded it.

A look ahead shows that we are already over 6" ahead of last winter's record setting snowfall of 138.9".

Happy Holidays.

Bill Lafley

BEAR MOUNTAIN TRADERS NEW SERVICES

Bear Mountains Traders formerly on Rte. 202 in New Salem is now based out of the owners Joel and Wanita Sears home on Farley Rd.

Joel and Robert Leverett Jr. as Bear Mountain Stoneworks are busy making stone tools, demonstrating, and teaching the lost art of stone tool making in order to prevent the repeated destruction of indigeonous peoples aneestral lands.

We partieipated in the Wendell Farmer's Market last summer and are looking forward to the next season. Our hoop greenhouse will allow for our earliest start yet. The seed eatalogs are eoming in.

We are offering a growing serviee to start your garden plants. If you would like to start a special variety of vegetable or flower and are limited due to spaee, sunlight, or unavailibility from the loeal growers please give us a call at 544-7198.

We have many resources for finding any seeds you have been looking for as well.

Our page on the World Wide Web is up. For more information please look for us at http://www.tiae.net/users/wsears.

Joel & Wanita Sears

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379
TOWN HALL 508 544 3395

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Wendell Selectboard Meeting Minutes September 10, 1996
Members present were Anne , Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis.
Correspondence was reviewed.
Meeting convened at 7:00

Bruce Hunter attended to discuss contract for Morse Village Rd. repairs. Work will begin Thursday September 12, 1996. Warner Brothers will subcontract for drainage under Warner Bros. supervision.

Low bid for Dry Hydrants was from Chaves to be completed by October 31, 1996. Each location will take 3 days and will start at Bowen's Pond.

Joanne Carey was appointed Town Treasurer upon resignation of Gail Bowes. Judith Wilder will be Assistant Town Treasurer.

Discussion with Joanne Carey and Judith Wilder of responsibilities, fiscal procedures, and interaction with Accountant. Board signed Ms. Carey's appointment.

Received $18,938.70 from Franklin Regional Housing Authority B-92 Housing Rehabilitation.

Board of Health will tour the MRF on September 26,1996 at 10:30.

Need one volunteer for Hazardous Waste Day on October 19, 1996 at the Montague Landfill.

Ted Lewis will be Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals member for the Michael Wing variance on September 19, 1996.

Discussion of zoning language change with Public Meeting prior to Annual Town Meeting.

Nancy Riebschaelger, Accountant discussed paper trail of warrant.

Money Management Team Meeting will be on October 1, 1996.

Finance Committee discussed articles for Special Town Meeting on October 15, 1996 at 7:00 in the Town Hall.

Margo Culley reported on her conversation with John Gates, Town Counsel of Roger Choiniere's letter of disturbances from Michael Wing.
Board, Conservation Committee, and Board of Health will act on this complaint.
Meeting adjourned at 10:15

Wendell Selectboard Meeting Minutes September 17, 1996
Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis . Also present were Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears.
Warrant and minutes were signed.
Correspondence was reviewed.
Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board will request submissions for Wendell Town Flag design. Deadline for submissions will be February 1, 1997.

Clerical Assistant for Selectboard and Accountant's Assistant positions will be posted.

Regina Curtis reported of Ken Wing injuring his left hand at the WRATS. Board of Health will review safety procedures.

Discussion of paperwork involved in MEMA storm damage billing.

Don't Waste Massachusetts bulletin outlined town support for radioactive waste.

Bids for Highway Department grader will be accepted until September 24, 1996.

Board signed appointments for Edna Bulger to the Board of Registrars and Judith Wilder as Assistant Treasurer.

Anne Zak will attend the Rte. 2 Task Force Meeting on September 19, 1996.

Margo Culley will attend the Selectman's Association Dinner on September 19, 1996.

Ms. Zak signed Memo of Understanding for Hazardous Waste Day.

Rte. 2 Task Force Meeting will be September 19, 1996 at 7:00 at the Gill Town Hall.

Ms. Zak signed MEMA Designation of Applicant's Agent form and Mass. Boiler Plate contract.

Board signed Community Pledge for Local Government Week
Resolution.

Note of Standard Operating Procedures sent to Fire Department.

Discussion of Special Licenses.

Letter received from Roger Choiniere referring to disturbances from Michael Wing residence discussed at September 3rd meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing for Michael Wing's variance will be held on September 19, 1996 at 7:00at the Senior Center.

Notes discussed from Morse Village Rd. Pre-Construction Meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 10:00

Wendell Selectboard Meeting September 24, 1996 Minutes
Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley , and Ted Lewis.
Also present were Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears.
Minutes were signed and correspondence reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board discussed changes in Building Permit application fees.

Discussion of Davis Rd. bridge storm damage with Town of Montague that Montague did not include in MEMA relief. It is included on TIP Federal Aid Footbridge Program and scheduled for '98.

Letters discussed from Steve Kulik on legislation and storm damage letters sent to private citizens.

Discussion of Morse Village Rd. work with Danny Bacigalupo.

Road Commissioners attended for Grader Bid Opening. One bid received from C.N. Wood. Warranty will be discussed .

Discussion of Town building maintainance by Highway Department and future logging of all hours for building maintainence and WRATS work.

Board discussed Highway and Fire Departments roof leak and repair.

Memorandum of Agreements for Jennison Rd. and Wendell Depot Rd. culverts expected soon.

Final draft of Town Employee Sexual Harassment Policy discussed.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 1, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Ted Lewis , and Margo Culley. Also present were Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator, Joe Coll, Athol Daily News, and Wanita Sears.
Warrant and minutes were signed.
Correspondence was reviewed.
Meeting convened at 7:00.

Rashid Seedat and Hlengi Phinias Chauke from South Africa sat in on the meeting as part of their visit to learn of town government.

Board signed Revenue and Anticipation Notes for Tax Collector.

Margo Culley reported on Franklin County Charter Commission Meeting. County government has been abolished by Governor Weld. Franklin County will remain as pilot experiment for new forms of regional government from Advisory Board to be formed.

Septic Repair Grants deadline has been extended until April 30, 1997.

MDC and DEP approvals have both been received for dry hydrants at Stone's Pond.

Discussion of Sexual Harrassment Policy that must be in place for November 1, 1996 for Town employees .

Anne Zak will attend the Electric Deregulation Public Hearing on October 2, 1996 in Greenfield.

Board signed warrant for October 15. 1996 Special Town Meeting.

Margo Culley discussed deregulation of electricity and comparison of cities buying at lower rates in bulk purchasing.

Selectboard Meeting on October 1, 1996 will have visitors from South Africa to study small town government.

Rte. 2 Task Force Meeting on November 21, 1996 will be at the Wendell Senior Center.

Money Management Team will meet on October 1, 1996 at 5:30.

Board signed warrant.

Ted Lewis will attend the preconstruction conference for the dry hydrants at the Swift River School on October 1, 1996 at 5:30.

Received letter on DOR School Budget overruns to town.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00

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Hill Town Restoration
(508) 544-7864
Specializing in Preservation Techniques

Historic Renovation
Work Done With Care
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GNOMES RENOVATION & BUILDING
Licensed & Insured
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MARK STEWART
P.O. Box 6
Wendell Depot, MA 01380
(508) 544-8715

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 8, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Ted Lewis, and Margo Culley. Also present was Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed and correspondence reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board signed banking services agreement for Treasurer.

Board signed warrant for drawdown of Housing Authority grant monies.

Board signed construction contract for Erving EOCD project.

$25,068.66 will be received from MEMA for June 13, 1996 storm damage. Balance will be billed after completion.

Allen Young from Athol Memorial Hospital will attend the October 22, 1996 meeting to discuss the new Community Health Center on West River Street in Orange.

There will not be a Selectboard Meeting on October 15, 1996 due to Special Town Meeting that date in Town Hall at 7:00.

Attorney General's office will hold a Municipal Forum on November 14, 1996 in Boston.

Newletter received on utility restructuring.

Request received from Floyd Boradove for absentee ballot. Board will consult with Anne Hartjens, Town Clerk on time limits.

Board signed EOCD grant contracts.

Town Common Study Committee will be formed at Special Town Meeting.

Board signed Dry Hydrant contracts.

Road grader to go back out to bid. Prior bidder sold.

Wanita Sears spoke of concerns of increase in calls from Lake Grove School recently of boys running away. Ms. Zak spoke of her phone call with Vic Scutari and his concerns with this as owner of the Country Store. Board will speak with Lake Grove administration.

Anne Zak reported that Money Management Team will meet quarterly. Fiscal Planning Committee will be appointed.

Paul Rich stated his annoyance with Bob Bowers dogs barking and cows getting loose as well as the continuance of dog barking from Michael Wing's. Board will discuss with Maggie Houghton, Dog Officer removal of Wing dogs.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.

PRESS Wendell Post Reporter

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 22, 1996 Minutes Members attending were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present was Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed and correspondence reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board signed Housing Authority document.

Board signed Election warrant for November 5, 1996.

Board signed Town Hall use form for Mahar Drama Club performance of "Our Town" on November 10, 1996 from 7-10.

Discussion of wall plaster and paint work to be done at the Town Hall.

Board appointed Robin Driscoll to replace Marcelle Feltman as Cultural Council member.

Assessor's new office hours will be on Thursdays from 2-4. Meetings will be held Thursdays at 7:00.

Copy of Assessor's letter to Town Clerk received.

Letter received from Taconic Data Corp. concerning property evaluation.

MEMA Disaster Response Course will be November 19 - 21, 1996 in Taunton.

MMA will be hosting a workshop on cellular tower siting and contracting.

Newsletter received from Franklin Community Action Corp.

Mass Interchange newsletter received discussing MHD Baystate Roads Program.

Discussion of refining of Employee Sexual Harassment Policy language.

Board agreed to rejoin the Franklin County CDC.

No bids were received for the 7:30 opening of grader bids.

Joe Coll requested Board's input for technical assistance needed for town from county to be used at next Franklin County Commission's Structure Committee Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting October 29, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Ted Lewis, and Margo Culley. Also present were Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board signed Assessor's Education Certification.

Board signed Final Certification from DOR for property evaluation.

$18,050 received from B-92 Housing Grant Program Income.

Letter received from Taconic Data Corporation.

Resignation received from Al Miller, Town Hall Custodian for Wendell and New Salem effective November 30, 1996. Position will be posted.

Mary Mc Bride, Assessor attended for the 7:30 Tax Classification Hearing.

Town Common Improvement Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday November 13, 1996 at 7:00 in the Senior Center.

Board will set up a date to meet at Roger Choiniere's home to hear duck disturbance from Michael Wing's in response to letter.

Bids for furnace cleaning and service due November 5, 1996.

Sander bids due November 12, 1996.

Discussion of Town Garage roof repair progress.

Board authorized Ken Wing to receive wages lost from WRATS injury.

Anne Zak spoke of Cash Management Capital Planning Committee formation.

Discussion of efforts to meet with Lake Grove School's new administrator to discuss their security measures.

There has been a complaint made to Maggie Houghton, Dog Officer from Michael Wing about Mark Marceau's dogs.

Board discussed restrictions and signed Special Permit for Parker Cleveland's auto hobby.

Discussion of available monies to purchase window quilts for Town Offices.

Board listed possible volunteers for Town Common Study Committee.

Joe Coll was appointed representative to the Franklin County Charter Commission.

Board discussed Special Town Meeting articles with Finance Committee Chairman, Lee Trousdale.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 5, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present was Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board discussed electrical work needed at Town Offices with Jay Blackbird. Support of sagging ceiling beam will be done first.

Anne Marie Payne asked procedure for neighbor to have driveway on her property becaus of her concerns of usage of her driveway throughout Morse Village Road repair.

Margo Culley discussed topics of Wendell Country Store Meeting she attended.

Anderson Heating was awarded furnace -boiler cleaning-service from bid opening.

Steve Kulik will have office hours at the Town Offices on November 22, 1996 from 10:00 to 11:00.

Board reviewed revised draft of Sexual Harassment Policy.

Assessors will not meet on November 7, 1996.

Franklin County CDC Annual Meeting will be November 18, 1996 at 5:30.

Letter received from Franklin County Commission on receiving funding for a regional Board of Health assistance program.

Board signed various documents for Morse Village Road repair changes.

Union 28 School Committee Meeting will be November 13, 1996 at 7:30 at the Shutesbury Elementary School.

Discussion of Town Hall Use policy revising. Complaint received from neighbor of excessive noise from evening party October 31, 1996.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 12, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present were Regina Curtis, Town Coordinator and Wanita Sears. Warrant and minutes were signed. Correspondence was reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Board signed Revenue Anticipation Notes for Treasurer.

Discussion of overview of Anne Marie Payne's request for help in driveway for neighbor and property lines.

Allen Young, Vice President of Public Relations for Athol Memorial Hospital discussed plans for the coming West River Health Center in Orange serving North Quabbin towns. Offices within the health center will include a home health agency, general practitioner, and specialists.Mr. Young was open to suggestions of alternative health practitioners renting individually or cooperatively office space.

Harry Willistion, Highway Commissioner informed Board of Commission's law that telephone poles be 4 feet back from edge of pavement. Board will notify Nynex to move any not 4 feet back.

cont on pg 8

LEAH & LILLY HAVE A GREAT TIME
MAKING GINGERBREAD HOUSES AT
HOLIDAY TIME AT ENCHANTED FOREST

THE ENCHANTED FOREST PRODUCED FORTY
GINGERBREAD HOUSES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The Enchanted Forest Program Celebrates the Holidays

THE ENCHANTED FOREST HOSTS THE
HALLOWEEN PARTY IN WENDELL TOWN HALL
FOR CHILDREN OF SWIFT RIVER SCHOOL

WAFFLES AS MONSTER OF CEREMONIES!

GAIL AND SALLY PREPARE TO LEAD
THE PARADE OF 80 CHILDREN AROUND
THE WENDELL COMMON ON HALLOWEEN

ROSEMARY LEADS THE GROUP IN
STORYTELLING AT THE HALLOWEEN PARTY

Selectboard

From Page Six

Rosemary Sheola attended to discuss with Board complaints of excessive noise from October 31, 1996 party at Town Hall.

Sauder bid opening at 8:00 awarded to Bart Truck Equipment Co.

Town Hall use new policy will include appearance before the Board of all who request rental. All rental agreements will be faxed to Police for their coverage on events that require an officer. Further new policy will be discussed at future meetings.

Board discussed agenda for Town Common Improvement Committee Meeting Wednesday November 13, 1996 at 7:00 in Senior Center.

Discussion with Lee Trousdale, Finance Committee resulted in agreement that Town employees receive a flat hourly rate for State required trainings for their positions.

Full Moon Coffeehouse will host a Town Official night for a future coffeehouse. Questions of storage and trash removal responsibility for coffeehouse were solved.

Ted Lewis was appointed as NYNEX Severe Storm Emergency contact person.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting November 19, 1996 Minutes Members present were Anne Zak, Margo Culley, and Ted Lewis. Also present were Joe Coll, Athol Daily News and Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed and correspondence reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00

Deva Skydancer requested rental of Town Hall for a Benefit Dance on January 18, 1997.

Tax rate of $21.38 received from Assessor's.

A lighting improvement incentive of $1500 will be received from Mass Electric for Town Office improvements.

Joy Gorzocoski will be interviewed for the custodian position.

Interviews will be set up for the two applicants for Accountant's Clerk with Nancy Riebschaelger, Accountant.

Franklin County Solid Waste District Meeting will be November 21, 1996 at 7:00.

Copy of letter from Stanley Gawle to Franklin County Dispatch received.

Board signed for NYNEX to place conduit in front of Town Garage at 7:30 Pole Hearing.

Board signed note for State Anticipation Chapter 90 funds.

Copy of Georgia Guardian received from Fran Zera, former Greenfield Recorder Correspondent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 for Board to discuss Town Hall Use Policy, Sexual Harassment Policy, Custodial duties, and review Budget Report.

Wendell Selectboard Meeting December 3, 1996 Minutes Members attending were Anne Zak and Margo Culley. Also present was Joe Coll, Athol daily News and Wanita Sears. Minutes were signed and correspondence reviewed. Meeting convened at 7:00.

Discussion of towns not participating in Keno having waiver rights through application to State to receive proceeds.

Letter received from John Gates, Town Counsel that cemetary deed will soon be received.

Anne Zak signed closeout for FY'94 Small Cities Grant utilized for handicap access and Montague Road.

Ms. Zak and Margo Culley will attend the Morse Village Road Guardrail Meeting on Friday december 6, 1996 at 7:00 in the Senior Center.

Board signed Letter of Support for the Franklin County Commission Grant.

Town Hall Use and Sexual Harassment Policies reviewed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wanita Sears
Selectboard Clerk

TAX COLLECTOR NOTICE
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

1997 TAX RATE SET
$21.38

PAYMENT 1 DUE 1-10-97
PAYMENT 2 DUE 5-02-97

COLLECTOR:
JUDITH WILDER
508-544-8617
HOURS:
1ST & 3RD SAT
OF EACH MONTH
9-11 AM
EVERY TUESDAY
(BY APPOINTMENT)
7-9 PM
ADDRESS:
PO BOX 214
WENDELL, MA
01379

ASSESSORS:
CHARLES BOWES
TED GAGNON
MARY MCBRIDE
508-544-3395
HOURS:
EVERY THURSDAY
2-4 PM
ADDRESS:
PO BOX 41
WENDELL, MA
01379

ABATEMENT APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY 1-10-97

EMERGENCY SHELTER

This winter has brought some very intense weather and storms already. Many homes in town were without power for several days in one of these storms. This was not too hard to bear for those of us with wood stoves but we realized that not everyone in town has wood heat.

The Senior Center can be used for an emergency shelter if anyone has the need. The Civil Defense Director, Sara de Rhode - 544-8695 or any member of the Selectboard or Officer Diemand from the Police Dept. has keys and can help in the case that emergency shelter is needed.

Try and be prepared, it is a good idea to have candles, flashlights, extra blankets, water and food on hand during these months that storms and cold weather come.

Please call us if you need help and enjoy the beauty of this winter.

Anne Diemand

InterNetworks
Judy Grupenhoff
Web Site Development
Internet Training
47 Old Stage Road
Wendell, MA 01379
Phone: (508) 544-8019
Fax: (508) 544-5334
Email: inetwork@tiac.net

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Moshe Feldenkrais
ANNE PERKINS
Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner
Wendell, MA (508) 544-6385
Northampton, MA (413) 586-1085
Classes Thursday s 9:30 AM & 5PM Wendell Senior Center

Wendell Woodworking
Bud Davis
Computer Aided Design
Building & Remodeling
Custom Cabinetry & Furniture
304 New Salem Rd.
Wendell, MA 01379
(508) 544-7290

WENDELL COUNTRY STORE
OPEN
Patti & Vic Scutari
(508) 544-8646
Locks Village Rd.
Wendell, MA. 01379

News from State Forest

NEWS FROM THE STATE FOREST

Winter recreation is here all of a sudden. Two snowstorms back to back (or same storm which sat and took a break) gave us 20 inches of snow to think about.

Throughout the fall we have been working hard on the roads and roadsides here in the northwest block. Mostly they are good to go—the big exception is Davis Road and the north ends of Jerusalem and Damon Camp roads. That loop is not an option this season. All the other roads in this section are ready—we are out in the snowmobile and sled cutting away low branches. Our bombardier BOMBI has had major overhaul in '96 and is expected to perform well. We hope to groom all our own trails and selected trails in Erving State Forest.

This season we are starting up an Accessible Cross Country Ski Program utilizing "sit-skis" which enable people with lower body or mobility disabilities to experience the thrill of being on skis and going over the snow.

This is a start up program and will depend on "stand-ski" and "sit-ski" volunteers to instruct and assist new sit-skiers. We can provide info here at Wendell headquarters, 413-659-3797 or call the Universal Access Office at 413-545-5353.

We are right now open on weekends. The warming room will be open at the headquarters and we will try to keep the field packed down for sledders—everyone is welcome.

Parking can be a problem at times. We will try to overcome that.

Hal Stowell
Supv. Wendell S.F.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

POLICE LOG

09/23/99 Bicycle found. Jennison Rd.
09/25/96 Officer wanted Wendell Depot Rd.
09/25/96 Breaking & Entering. Elm St.
09/25/96 Light box stolen from Fire Station.
09/28/96 Missing person. Farley Rd.
09/28/96 Breaking & Entering. Wendell Country Store.
09/28/96 Property damage from MV. Wendell Depot Rd.
09/28/96 Wire & Transformer down. Mormon Hollow Rd.
09/28/96 Party with illegal fire. Locks Village Rd
09/29/96 Two missing children. Wendell State Forest.
10/03/96 Suspicious vehicle. New Salem Rd.
10/13/96 Disabled vehicle. Wendell Depot Rd.
10/14/96 Domestic. Gate Lane.
10/16/96 Two snow tires stolen. Locks Village.
10/18/96 Screen door vandalized. Wendell Depot Rd.
10/19/96 Burglar alarm. Rush Rd.
10/20/96 Two missing children. Wendell.
10/25/96 Stolen vehicle found. Wendell State Forest.
10/27/96 Accident. Depot Rd.
11/07/96 Alarm. Rush Rd.
11/09/96 Accident. Camp Anderson.
11/12/96 Deer hit. Montague Rd.
11/14/96 Accident. Wendell Depot Rd.
11/15/96 Accident. Locks Village Rd.
11/16/96 Disabled MV. Montague Rd.
11/20/96 Accident. Wendell Depot Rd.
12/04/96 Disoriented person, check welfare. Farley Rd.
12/05/96 Lost hunter. Ruggles Pond.
12/06/96 Officer wanted. Locke Hill Rd.
12/07/96 Wires & tree down. Farley Rd.
12/11/96 Accident. Montague Rd.
12/11/96 Disabled vehicle. Arch St. Bridge.
12/12/96 Accident. Montague Rd.
12/13/96 Safety hazard. Farley Rd.
12/13/96 MV stolen. Old Stage Rd.

Every police officer may receive calls on their home phone and these calls may not be included in this log

PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION LOOKING FOR TALENT

Prairie Home Companion is looking for talent that can be broadcast over the radio from artists from towns with under two thousand people.

Two ways to enter:

1. leave your a three minute performance on their answering machine: 1-612-290-1174. Be ready to perform at the beep. leave your name, hometown and phone number.

2 Send an audio cassette with a three minute performance. Cue the tape to the song you want them to hear. Include photos and a short description of who you are and what you so No videotapes.

The address is A Prairie Home Companion, Minnesota Public Radio, 45 E. Seventh St. St. Paul,MN. 55101-2274. Mark T-TUTT on the envelope.

Entries must be received by Friday, Jan.31, 1997. So do it NOW.

WENDELL RECREATION

The Recreation Commission is having regular meetings to organize events. If anyone is interested in joining us to discuss the ideas we are working on - some of which are: a skating rink, teen game night, basketball games, summer sing-a-longs, summer concert series and the list goes on. The next meeting is Feb. 25 at the Wendell Police Station at 7 pm. Call Anne at 544-6111 or Mez at 544-7561 for more info.

Septic Systems: Proper Care + Feeding

Septic Systems: Proper Care & Feeding

Most of us in Wendell use a septic system to dispose of our household wastewater. The septic system's purpose is to treat these wastes in order to prevent contamination of groundwater, streams, lakes, swamps and wells.

A septic system consists of an underground tank (usually 1000 gallons) which has an outlet to a leaching area or field. The wastes flow into the tank first and the solids settle out and break down. The liquid waste moves out into the leaching area and is dispersed into the soil.

A properly installed and well-maintained system should last from 20 to 30 years. Without proper maintenance the system can fail much sooner requiring costly repairs and become a threat to nearby wetlands.

The following are some helpful suggestions about care and maintenance of septic systems from the publication, Your Septic System distributed by the Cooperative Extension, Soil Conservation Service, USDA:

Pump the tank regularly - The tank should be pumped every 2-4 years depending on the number of people using the system. Regular pumping reduces the amount of solids that move into the leaching area which clog the field. Shoreline residents should pump annually or at most every 2 years to prevent contamination of the water body.

Conserve water - This helps to reduce the amount of material being introduced into the system. Use water saving aerators and showerheads and place stone filled containers in the toilet tank. Repair leaky faucets or toilets promptly since a faucet leak can waste up to 20 gallons/day.

Safe disposal - Since the breakdown of solids in the tank is done by bacteria substances like motor oil, gasoline, paints, bleach, thinners and other toxins can kill these bacteria and should never be put in the system. Grease, coffee grounds, garbage and other floating solids should not be allowed down the drain. They do not settle out in the tank and will move directly into the field and clog it.

Avoid septic tank additives - There is no evidence that yeast or other chemical additives are effective at improving the performance of a septic system.

With proper care and maintenance septic systems can be kept functioning properly for their expected life. In this way costly repairs can be avoided and surrounding drinking water supplies and wetlands won't be contaminated.

Bill Lafley
Wendell Conservation Commission

Karen Traub, M.Ed., L.A.P.
Integrative Acupressure
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Wendell (508) 544-7643

Eclipse of Harvest Moon

Eclipse of the Full Harvest Moon

It was 9:20 P.M. on Sept. 26 and time to view an eclipse of a full moon. "A rare occurrence in nature," they say, although we'll experience a more common eclipse of a partial moon soon after the turn of the century. The dogs joined me outside as I assembled the telescope in my lap in a comfortable seated position, and sited on the bright object of national attention. Fortunately, it was a clear night. A NE sliver began to dull in shadow. It would thus be the first section to re-ignite. Viewing is presented in reverse of actual configuration in telescopes and takes some clever mental reversals to establish actual positioning.

Early lunar change advanced slowly yet I felt the drama intensify in depth and clarity against the backdrop of space. I wanted to spy the darker sky where both dippers were visible, so I walked away from the illuminated East towards an unstaged contrast of Northern heavens. As I gazed, a star shot in splendid brilliance, a wonderful meteor in longevity and an early reminder of the November Leonids to come. It dripped a sharply defined fiery tail, long and thick, the striking of a match to my mood and exclamation. I had been looking at the spot when unexpectedly, always unexpectedly, it jolted the frame of perspective. There is profound pleasure in night skies. I make resolutions to walk more at night. A light show of even one shooting star of measure can heighten my spirit and I returned to the telescope elevated.

The dogs were playful to have human company but affected by full moon astronomy. They prowled the dark only falling short of howling skywards. A cat screamed repellent to ward off pesky Tom. I was warm in young September, my barn coat zipped against the impersonal platinum glow of moonlight gone funny. I adjusted and readjusted my lens to site more crisply on crater continents marking the lunar surface. It starkly contrasted external space. Our moon. One of its kind. Unlike Jupiter's four, visible by telescope this summer, spread out in a straight line. The moon influences the tides, high and low twice daily. The majority of our body is water. Full moon yields unprescribed behavior. So as not to disappoint myself with normalcy, I howled back at coyotes, sniffing hungry perimeters toward the hen house. The dogs accompany me valorous in melody.

It took about an hour and the moon was fully eclipsed. I was alone with the circumstances. So much depended upon my viewing. Does a moon make a sound if no one is there to hear it fall?

The eclipsing moon filled the lens with a sharp edged shape so perfectly round. It turned colors in Earth's shadow as it lost direct sunlight. A haunting orange blended the craters and mountains into a lime-riki green. "Penumbra." The word slipped into mind as I noticed a fringe shadow of lesser degree, a secondary shadow upon shadow. Was it poetic or scientific reference? I estimated that it took longer to complete the shadow than during mid-cycle for I was concentrating on size, grandeur, color and fitful images of ancestral primates, basking like myself in wonder of magic. The shadowed moon was an acorn illuminated from within and edible like honey dew and candy corn. Colors of dawn graced its surface. Stars visible nearby would diminish in intensity as the moon rekindled its ardent light.

I found it hard to leave for bed for I felt ceremonious with vigil. Still all in shadow at 11:00 and very colorful in its dim blue-green-orange way, the moon would have to sunbathe with other voyeurs.

It took nearly three hours for the sky to resume normalcy. Skies can do that.

Nina Keller

WHATEVER YOUR HANDS FIND TO DO YOU MUST DO WITH ALL YOUR HEART

COMPLIMENTARY HEALTH PRACTITIONERS OPPORTUNITIES

Allen Young, Vice President of Public Relations for the Athol Memorial Hospital attended a recent meeting of the Wendell Selectboard.

Mr. Young spoke of Athol Memorial Hospital's West River Health Center opening soon.It will be located on West River Street, Orange in the former Kontro building.

Some occupants planned for the West River Clinic include a General Practitioner and Home Health Service.

Athol Memorial is open to Alternative Health Practitioners renting office space individually or cooperatively within the clinic.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the area to provide a local clinic for these much needed services.

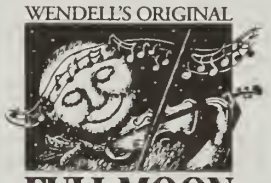
Statistics show that within 3 years most HMO's will include Complementary Medicine in their policies.

Any local Alternative Health Practitioners are welcome to inquire. Let your favorite Chiropractor, Homeopath, Massage Therapist, or Acupuncturist know of this. One or 2 days a week could be set up in an office. If there is a network in the valley please get the word out.

For more information please contact Allen Young at the Athol Memorial Hospital at (508) - 249-3511.

Wanita Sears

WENDELL'S ORIGINAL



FULLMOON COFFEEHOUSE

Upcoming Events

FLAMES FROM HELL
SAT. JAN. 25
TO BENEFIT THE
WENDELL FIRE ASSOCIATION

At the Town Hall
Wendell, Massachusetts

Celebrating Mexico at Swift River School

Through the Celebrating Diversity Program, all classes at the Swift River School have joined together this year to learn about our neighbors in Mexico. What better time to explore this spicy, colorful and lively culture than now in the mid of winter! The program began on 1/6, and will end with a whole school activity on Feb. 13.

Erin Williams is helping our children learn the history and traditions of Mexico through folklore, theater, and a Mexican Culture kit. An exciting collection of Mexican literature is also available to all in the school library. Discussions about Pre-Columbian art will be led by Amy Fagin with grades 3 through 6. Ed Hines is teaching Mexican songs to all classrooms. Estela Carrera Infante, manager of the new restaurant La Mexican in Greenfield, and a native of Mexico, is telling stories about her homeland, giving dance workshops, making pinatas, and helping students learn how to prepare and enjoy many types of Mexican foods. All classes have the opportunity to experience Mexican arts and crafts firsthand as several artists, including Lydia Grey and Linda Ruel Flynn, will be providing visual arts workshops in mural painting, clay bead and whistle making ("Ocarina") and other forms of pottery. George Kokurewicz is teaching Mexican paper cutting designs. Judy Grupenhoff is helping put our computers to good use throughout our study of Mexico by helping students learn how to access the Internet to find information. E-mail will also be useful for communicating with our Mexican penpals.

This exploration of Mexico promises to be an exciting and enriching program of study for our children, and it is available to our community at large. You all are welcome to participate and help with any aspect of this program that interests you (no experience necessary!).

If you have questions, comments and/or would like to help the school celebrate Mexico in any way, please contact Erin Williams: 544-6407 or Molly Kaynor: 544-7864 or leave a message at the school.

Celebrating Diversity is a program which is provided in collaboration with the 1794 Meeting House. It is funded in part by the Wendell and New Salem Cultural Councils, the Franklin County Business for the Arts, the New Salem Academy, and the Mass. Cultural Council which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Molly Kaynor

DARE Program Input Requested

The Drug Awareness Committee at the Swift River School is looking for your opinions (anonymous or not) about the DARE Program. Since all community members are paying taxes which fund the DARE Program and the school, the Committee welcomes input from all.

Please send your thoughts to the Committee, c/o Swift River School, Wendell Rd. RFD #1, Orange, MA 01364.

Mahar Honor Roll Quarter 1

* Indicates All A's

Grade 9
* Anne E. Daniel-Stamell
Jesse E. Davis
Adam G. Feltman
Kelsey K. Flynn
Mara J. Gross
Seth Lawrence-Slavas
Benjamin A. Waldron

Grade 10
* Caralee U. Manley
Debi L. Ryznic

Grade 11
* Kyle Gilman

Grade 12
Michael T. Anderson
Jaqueline M. Binley
Sarah Daniel-Stamell
Margaret Scott

RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL
A-B HONOR ROLL: QUARTER 1
MIDDLE SCHOOL

* Indicates All A's

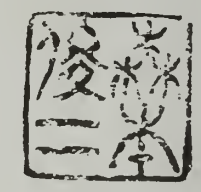
Grade 7
Jesse C. Browning
Ciji A. Murcell
Kelley Joy Simon
Guinnevere E. Skellie
* Tessa R. White-Diemand

Grade 8
Brianna Drohen
Michelle Lowell
Liam Walsh

Middle School Second Honor Roll

David C. Ewell
Julia H. Sundell-Thomas

指圧
SHIATSU
Japanese Massage



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